

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 5, 2007, the Examiner objected to and rejected claims 2-4 based on lack of antecedent basis and being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 2-4 have been amended to overcome these objections and rejections.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 as being anticipated by U.S. 5,687,525 (Koski) with claims 2 and 3 being rejected as obvious over Koski in view of separate secondary references. Reconsideration of the rejection, in view of the amendments to the claims, is respectfully requested.

Koski discloses a connector 19, having a lock tab 41 lanced from the plane of the connector. A flap section 47 is bent inwardly to return towards the plane of the connector. As explained in column 7, lines 47-50, flap section 47 enables the tab 41 to cam laterally inwardly to allow it to escape from the slot. In other words, as one runner is disengaged from another runner, the flap 47 engages the edge of opening 18 and forces the lock tab 41 towards the plane of the connector 19 so that with twisting, as shown in Figure 9, the two pieces can be disconnected. In order to function properly, the flap section 47 must be formed at the end of the lock tab 41 and be bent inwardly towards the plane of the connector 19.

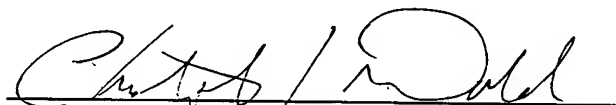
In the Examiner's rejection, the Examiner stated that the outer portion having a V-shape was formed by two parts, the lock tab 41 and the left portion of 26 and that the tooth was formed by the flap section 47. Claim 4 now recites that the free end of the second part projects beyond the free end of the tooth. This structure is not present in the flap section 47 and lock tab 41. New claim 5 states that the tooth extends from the second portion, the tooth extending away from the first portion. As seen in Figure 4, the flap section 47 extends towards the first portion 26, as designated by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 3 are allowable since they depend on allowable independent claim 4. Claim 6 is allowable since it depends on claim allowable independent claim 5. Claims 7 and 8 are allowable as they further recite that the first portion is made of two sections having different height. Likewise, claim 10 recites that the V-shape is formed by the two sections joined at a bend and having an equal height at the bend. The two sections identified in Koski(26 and 41) are joined at a bend but one section 26 has a height greater than the height of the other section 41 at the bend. Claim 9 is allowable as it recites the tooth as struck from the second portion which is different in structure that the tooth 47 of Koski which is bent from a corner.

The claims are allowable and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney.

A three month extension of time accompanies this response. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,


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